

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:
receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, wherein the task comprises copying a file, installing a software application, updating a software application or sending batch data;
performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network;
receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device;
determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using a task status table;
performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination; and
updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device comprises:
receiving ~~a~~said identifier for said at least one device;
searching said task status table using said identifier;
retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier; and
determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device comprises:

determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network; and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

4. (Currently Amended) A method to communicate information over a network, comprising:
receiving a request to send information to a plurality of devices;
sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message;
receiving a request for said information from at least one device, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device;

determining whether said at least one device received said information using a task status table;

sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination; and

updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said determining whether said at least one device received said information comprises:

receiving ~~an~~said identifier for said at least one device;

searching said task status table using said identifier;

retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said receiving said request for said information comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and
sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:
receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, wherein the task comprises copying a file, installing a software application, updating a software application or sending batch data;
performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network;
receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device and an identifier for said at least one device, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device;
searching a task status table using said identifier;
retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier;
determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator;
performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination; and
updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and
sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

9. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using a task status table, performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device, wherein the task comprises copying a file, installing a software application, updating a software application or sending batch data.

10. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device by receiving ~~an~~said identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

11. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

12. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to send information to a plurality of devices, sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message, receiving a request for said information from at least one device, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device, determining whether said at least one device received said information using a task status table, sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said at least one device received said information by receiving ~~an~~said identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

14. (Original) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving a request for said information by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

15. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:
a storage medium;
said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device, wherein said request includes an Internet Protocol (IP) address, an IP subnet mask and an identifier for said at least one device, searching a task status table

using said identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator, performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device, wherein the task comprises copying a file, installing a software application, updating a software application or sending batch data.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server, said server having a task handler module to manage completion of a task for a plurality of target devices using a multicast message and update a task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed, wherein the task comprises copying a file, installing a software application, updating a software application or sending batch data;

a plurality of target devices, said plurality of target devices each having a task finisher module to request completion of said task if uncompleted, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device; and
a network to communicate information between said server and said plurality of target devices to complete said task.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a task handler module for each of said plurality of target devices to complete said task for said plurality of target devices.